

# Sandy Bank Sentinel

## NANAPASHEMET, SQUAW SACHEM, AND THEIR PEOPLE AT ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7.



Many readers may be familiar with the name of Nanapashemet, who was the leader of the band of Indians who made their home in the area known as Mystic Side before the coming of the English settlers. Others may be less familiar with his story or that of his successors: his spouse the Squaw Sachem, and their children, Wonohaquaham, Montowampate, and Wenepoykin. Nanapashemet and other Native Americans from the time of Malden's English settlement will be the subject of the Malden Historical Society's upcoming **Annual Meeting on Tuesday May 7 at 7:00 pm** in the Maccario Room of the Malden Public Library by longtime historical society member Mary Hampton. Learn about the groups and individuals

who lived in Malden and vicinity—their customs, challenges, interactions with early settlers and other indigenous groups, and more. Before English settlers arrived in the 1620s and 30s, Eastern Massachusetts was home to diverse bands of Native Americans belonging to the Algonquian language group, with some occupying the territory north of the Charles River including what later became Malden. This is a fascinating and little-explored subject. As this is our Annual Meeting there will be a business meeting and election of officers and directors for the forthcoming year prior to the program. Members are asked to bring something for the collation.

## SALEM STREET CEMETERY TOURS JUNE 15TH

The Malden Historical Society will offer walking tours of the historic Salem Street Cemetery on **Saturday, June 15th at 11 am and at 2pm**. The tour will be led by Frank Russell who has done an enormous amount of research on the cemetery. Tours will last approximately one hour and will go forward rain or shine. Salem Street Cemetery was Malden's second burying ground which first opened in 1832 and was expanded over the years. Come and discover the history of the cemetery and learn about some of the people buried here as well as the art of the monuments and some of the stone carvers who made them. The tour is free and open to the public. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and meet at the Salem Street entrance.



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# Mark Twain's Visit to Malden

*By Frank F. Russell*

Samuel Clemens a/k/a Mark Twain was one of the 19th-century's most prominent celebrities. The Malden Lyceum was begun in the early 1800's. Many of its meetings were held in the town hall after it was constructed in 1857. James Redpath was an editor and abolitionist who resided on Maple Street. Redpath also founded the Redpath & Fall Lyceum Bureau. One of Redpath's key attractions for his lecture circuit was Mark Twain. From 1869 to 1874 Twain was involved with James Redpath's Lyceum Bureau. Thus, it was inevitable that Redpath would book Twain into a venue in Redpath's hometown of Malden. Redpath booked Twain to appear before the Malden Lyceum at the Town House (the old City Hall) on Main Street in November, 1871.

Reviews were published in both the *Malden Mirror* and the *Malden Messenger* on November 11, 1871. The *Messenger* proclaimed that, "[o]ne of the largest and most critical audiences ever assembled in Malden, gathered in the Town Hall on Monday evening to listen to one of America's greatest humorists." Twain's lecture on Artemas Ward was, "a medley of fact and fiction." It kept the audience, "in good humor". But, the *Messenger* reported, "[a]s a lecturer, he is awkward, uncouth, and his manner of speaking is such as to impress those who hear him for the first time that he is slightly inebriated." It continued, "[o]f the American humorists— Twain, Nasby, and Billings, - we regard the first as the least entertaining as a lecturer. Nevertheless everybody was delighted to see and hear "Mark Twain"." In contrast, the *Malden Mirror* reported that, "the entertainment was pleasing, and in our estimation, well worth \$15 or even \$20." By the way, the \$15 ticket in 1871 would be roughly the equivalent of \$300 today!

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS

Inserted in this newsletter is a nomination form for candidates for the Historical Society's two awards: The Graham Award and the Corey Award, to be given at the first meeting in October. Would you please nominate suitable candidates and return your form to the Historical Society at the Annual Meeting or by mail to 36 Salem Street, Malden, MA 02148. Forms are due by May 31, 2019.

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Malden Historical Society

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**WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER!!!!****EMAIL ME AT [frussell2823@verizon.net](mailto:frussell2823@verizon.net)**

# CONVERSE 2020 KICKS OFF JUNE 1!

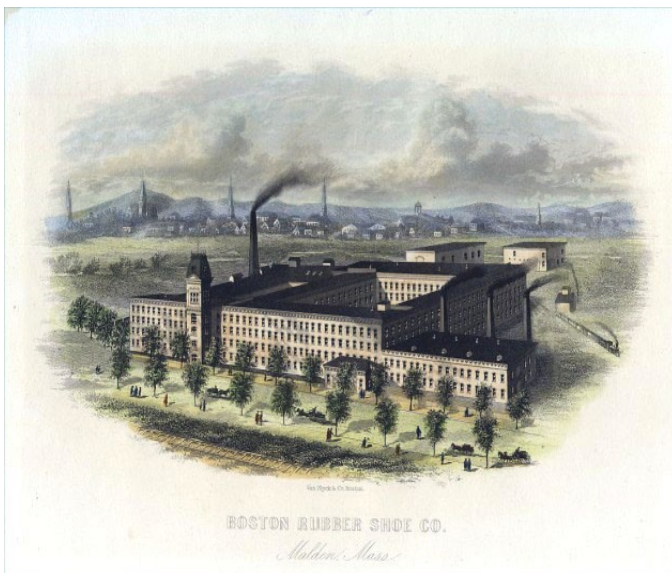
Join the Malden Public Library on Saturday, June 1, at 2p.m. for the kickoff of Converse 2020, a celebration of Malden's industrial history. Malden High School students Birukti Tsige and Felix Li will share their award-winning documentary on the life and contributions of Malden's first mayor, Elisha Slade Converse. The project won first prize in the Hometown Hero/National History Club's Lesson in Leadership competition. This presentation will be followed by a tour of the 1885 H.H. Richardson designed Converse Memorial Building, a landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Go Local: Converse 2020 is a two-year lecture and workshop series celebrating the life and philanthropy of Elisha and Mary Converse and the industrial history of the city of Malden. Born in 1820, Elisha Converse was one of Malden's largest benefactors providing full or partial funding for the Converse Memorial Building of the Malden Public Library, Fellsmere Park, the Malden YMCA, Malden City Hall, the First Baptist Church, The Malden Hospital, the Malden Home for the Aged, Pine Banks Park, and much more. In 1853, Converse founded the Boston Rubber Shoe Company, which at one point was Malden's largest employer and the world's largest producer of fine rubber boots, shoes, and overshoes. Malden residents were also employed at the Converse Rubber Shoe Company founded in 1908 by Marquis Mills Converse, home of the famous Chuck Taylor brand.

Through these programs the series hopes to enhance knowledge



Elisha Slade Converse and Mary Diana Converse in a photograph taken for Malden's 250th Anniversary in 1899.



of Malden's industrial history and enhance civic pride in our city's strong past and proud future. The series will continue through Elisha Converse's 200th birthday on July 28, 2020. The library will be collecting personal and family stories and photographs of the Converse Rubber Company or other industries in Malden for an exhibition in June, 2020. If you have information, photographs, or stories to share, please contact Director of Libraries Dora St. Martin at 781-324-0218. This Go Local Grant Series is brought to you with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

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MALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

36 Salem Street

Malden, MA 02148

**ANNUAL MEETING**

*Nanapashemet, Squaw Sachem, and Their People*

Tuesday, May 7

7pm, Malden Library

## **Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2019**

**Nanapashemet, Squaw Sachem, and Their People**  
7:00 pm, Maccario Room, Malden Public Library

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**

**Converse 2020: Kickoff Celebration**  
Sponsored by the Malden Public Library  
2:00 pm, Malden Public Library

**Saturday, June 15, 2019**

**Walking Tour of Salem Street Cemetery**  
11am and 2pm, Main Gate, Salem Street Cemetery